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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION: UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR DISARMAMENT RESEARCH

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General hereby transmits to the General Assembly the report of the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research on the activities of the Institute (see annex I) and the report of the Board of Trustees of the Institute (see annex II).

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ANNEX I

Report of the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) was established by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/83 M of 11 December 1979 for the purpose of undertaking independent research on issues of disarmament and international security.

2. The present report is submitted to the General Assembly in pursuance of paragraph 6 of its resolution 39/148 H of 17 December 1984, and paragraph 6 of its resolution 45/62 G of 4 December 1990, in which the Director was invited to report annually to the Assembly on the activities carried out by the Institute. The report is for the period from July 1995 to June 1996. a/

II. ORGANIZATION AND METHODS OF WORK

3. For the implementation of its research programme, UNIDIR relies on project-related, short-term contracts. Within the approved research programme, the Institute hires the services of, or develops cooperation with, individual experts or research organizations. It approaches those whom it considers qualified to be engaged in its research projects, determines the framework of research and reviews the manuscripts before their publication and dissemination. To assist in carrying out research projects, expert groups are established to ensure that multidisciplinary approaches are applied, and that various schools of thought are taken into account. Full use is being made of United Nations services for purposes of coordination, economy and cost-effectiveness.

4. This system of recruitment permits recourse to and utilization of reputable expertise available both inside and outside the United Nations system. It also contributes to the efforts of UNIDIR to expand its relations with other research institutes and individual experts from all over the world. This is in accordance with article II, paragraph 3, of its statute, which requires that the Institute "be organized in such a manner as to ensure participation on an equitable political and geographical basis".

5. The Institute's regular fellowship programme enables scholars from developing countries to come to Geneva to undertake research on disarmament and security issues at UNIDIR. The work of the visiting fellows is integrated into ongoing research projects: they make an important contribution to UNIDIR activities.

6. In addition to the fellowship programme, the Institute often welcomes visiting scholars and military officers from developed countries. Furthermore, a number of interns provide valuable assistance free of cost. Some of them stay on, part-time, for an extended period, on the basis of modest remunerations.

7. Voluntary contributions from States and public and private foundations form the principal financing of the Institute's activities. A subvention towards meeting the cost of the Director and the staff of the Institute is provided from the regular budget of the United Nations, in conformity with the provisions of the statute of UNIDIR.

8. During the period under review, the following countries either pledged or paid contributions to the Institute's Trust Fund: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Malta, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America. The following foundations offered grants to UNIDIR: Ford Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, Ploughshares Foundation, Winston Foundation and United States Institute for Peace. UNIDIR expresses its gratitude to those countries and foundations for their contributions.

III. CURRENT ACTIVITIES

9. The research programme adopted by the Board at its meeting in June 1993 had three main headings: collective security in the framework of the United Nations; regional security studies; and non-proliferation studies. For three years, UNIDIR resources have been concentrated on those lines of research. Their importance for international security and their relevance for the Organization are undiminished. At its meeting in June 1995, the Board therefore decided to keep the same headings for 1996 and beyond - thereby marking continuity - while shifting their focus towards new issues. A fourth item was added: preparatory studies for the next special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. Activities under this heading have been on hold pending clarification of the timing and modalities of the fourth special session devoted to disarmament.

A. Collective security

10. Under the heading of collective security, UNIDIR has conducted a major project on disarmament and conflict resolution. Starting in 1994, the project has collected field experiences from personnel involved in the demobilization and disarmament of warring factions; reviewed a number of peace operations where demobilization and disarmament have been attempted; examined approaches and techniques by which demilitarization has been sought; and discussed the role that disarmament of belligerents can play in the resolution of internal conflicts.

11. The project began with the formulation and distribution of a lengthy Practitioners' Questionnaire on weapons control, disarmament and demobilization during peace operations. In the interpretation and processing of the returns, UNIDIR was assisted by a number of military officers. In the period covered by the present report, they were Lt. Col. Paul Martin (United States), Lt. Col. Jakkie Potgieter (South Africa), Lt. Col. Ilkka Tiihonen (Finland), and Lt. Col. Guilherme Theophilo (Brazil). While the returns provide no basis for statistical conclusions, in most cases they brought valuable qualitative insights into the problems and opportunities facing military and civilian personnel in the field.

12. The Institute has published the following case studies of peace operations in which disarmament tasks were important parts of the wider mission: the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) and the United Nations Task Force

in Somalia (UNITAF); the 1979 Commonwealth Operation in Rhodesia; the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR); the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC); the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ); and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and its Military Observer Group (ECOMOG) operation in Liberia. Other case studies are being processed. Each study was undertaken by a junior researcher under the guidance of an external mentor and the project staff. The project has thus included a training component.

13. A series of issue papers have been prepared on factors that are deemed critical for the success or failure of disarmament and conflict resolution. Seven papers will appear in a publication entitled Managing Arms in the Peace Process: The Issues, entitled: "Specificity in Peacekeeping Operation Mandates"; "Consent, Neutrality and Impartiality"; "Is there a Middle Option in Peace Support Operations?"; "Implications for Crisis Containment and Disarmament"; "Peacekeeping and Disarmament: Peace Agreements, Security Council Mandates, and Local Disarmament"; "Rules of Engagement and Force Structure and Composition in United Nations Disarmament Operations"; "Consensual Versus Coercive Disarmament"; and "Multinational Peace Operations and the Enforcement of Consensual Disarmament". UNIDIR also published a volume that focuses on issues pertaining to the southern African region: Small Arms Management and Peacekeeping in Southern Africa. The three papers in this volume are: "Light Weapons and the International Arms Trade"; "Disarmament, Small Arms, and Intra-State Conflict: The Case of Southern Africa"; and "Peacekeeping in Southern Africa: A Regional Model". In addition, the Institute published a paper on "Managing Arms in Peace Processes: Aspects of Psychological Operations and Intelligence".

14. A number of workshops have been convened on policy issues. In the period under review, a workshop addressing "Different National Perspectives on Peacekeeping, Peace-enforcement and the Grey Zone in Between" was held in Finland. Another workshop on "The Training of Peacekeepers in Disarmament Operations" was held in Malta.

15. In cooperation with Quaker House in Geneva, the Institute held three briefings to present preliminary results of the project and get feedback on them. The briefings - for diplomats, civil servants and non-governmental organizations in Geneva - focused on the UNPROFOR experience; on the southern African case studies; and on practical conclusions for the implementation of disarmament activities during peace operations.

16. Two papers on training for peace operations, with a special emphasis on demobilization and disarmament, are being processed. A database has been established to provide easy access to materials for training purposes and to facilitate communications between training centres (Ilkka Tiihonen). This database may be extended to assist other uniformed services than the military, such as police, gendarmerie and customs officers. Such services may have important roles to play in relation to cross-border flows of arms and the control of small arms in general.

17. While the disarmament and conflict resolution project has focused on the relationship between demobilization and disarmament on the one hand and conflict

resolution on the other, the next stage is addressing the role of demobilization and disarmament in conflict prevention strategies. The UNIDIR project on disarmament, development and conflict prevention in West Africa is an inquiry into concrete, practical ways of improving the security situation in the area, thereby facilitating the conduct of development projects, starting with the case of Mali. The project is part of a broader conflict prevention effort by the United Nations and donor agencies. It builds on the work of the Secretary-General's missions to Mali and other countries in the region, and is supported by the Governments of Canada, the Netherlands and Norway.

18. Good theory is usually a precondition for good policy recommendations. To have a fair chance of success, preventive action has to build on several pillars, such as development aid, environmental assistance, development of political institutions, training of civilian police and arms control and disarmament. A valid theoretical underpinning is particularly important for the orchestration of efforts. Still, the right strategy may fail for lack of political backing. There is a need, therefore, for action programmes that are comprehensive and substantive enough to set societies on the course of peace and development, yet modest enough to stay within realistic resource frames. The UNIDIR project builds on a theory of preventive action that takes the transition from traditional to modern societies as its point of departure, and on a newly developed paradigm for the proliferation of small arms.

19. What the Institute is planning to do, specifically, is to address problems associated with the stocks and flows of arms in the area and with how human and material resources can be converted to civilian ends. The Institute may
(a) help tailor demobilization and disarmament approaches and techniques to the specifics of the region, to enhance the likelihood that such efforts will function and contribute effectively to development in the region; and
(b) facilitate regional cooperation on import restrictions and border controls.
The first task is largely a matter of combining preliminary results from the disarmament and conflict resolution project and the studies that have been made of small arms with regional expertise on the specifics of West African countries. The second is initially a matter of convening a regional workshop as suggested in the Secretary-General's Mali report, with customs officers, police, gendarmerie and others, to examine how regional cooperation to constrain the flow of arms can be promoted. In addition to immediate concerns, the meeting should also address additional measures that might be taken at later stages to ensure that the cooperation is effectively sustained.

20. The Director of UNIDIR went to Mali at the end of March 1996 for consultations on the occasion of the Flame of Peace bonfire ceremony held at Timbuktu, putting 2,654 arms on fire and marking the end of the war in northern Mali. A UNIDIR workshop on arms control and conflict prevention is planned for November 1996. A preparatory meeting of representatives of national commissions on small arms - established in a number of countries on United Nations initiative - was held at Bamako in July 1996, in connection with the seminar that is being planned on civil-military relations in that country in November.

B. Non-proliferation studies

21. When an arms control issue enters the negotiating agenda of the Conference on Disarmament, there is usually no further role for UNIDIR research. The negotiating parties, seeking common ground on the questions involved, are themselves exploring the specific options in great detail.

22. Thus, as the Conference was negotiating a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty, the latest UNIDIR publication on this issue was a study of monitoring from outer space (UNIDIR paper No. 32, 1994). Satellite monitoring was not among the verification techniques being incorporated in the international monitoring system for the treaty. However, it could provide something that seismic and other means could never provide: advance warning, giving the international regime a chance to stop underground tests under preparation. It may prove of greater interest at a later stage.

23. In a related endeavour, UNIDIR may help to inform a wider public about issues being negotiated by the Conference. In the period under review, the Institute organized a press seminar on the comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty together with the Information Service of the United Nations Office at Geneva. Some of the key players in the negotiation participated in the seminar. The presentations and a transcript of the discussions were published in a special edition of the UNIDIR NewsLetter.

24. It is widely assumed that a fissile material cut-off will be the next issue for negotiation by the Conference. In the pre-negotiation phase, UNIDIR may assist in sorting out the questions involved and provide factual material for subsequent considerations by the Conference. A first UNIDIR paper on this subject set out to identify the various elements of the cut-off proposal and the problems that it encounters (No. 31, 1994). Together with the German research group INESAP, the Institute convened a seminar on the cut-off at Geneva in mid-1995. Papers emanating from that meeting will be combined with contributions to another seminar on the same subject that UNIDIR will convene together with the Oxford research group (United Kingdom) on 29 August 1996. The papers will be published in the UNIDIR report series.

25. The Mountbatten Centre of the University of Southampton is preparing an account of the Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons for joint publication with UNIDIR. The book-size manuscript will be published by Westview Press.

26. "Nuclear disarmament to zero" is the long-term objective of nuclear disarmament, inscribed into a number of United Nations documents. For all parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons - more than 180 States - it is an international legal obligation (see art. VI), reiterated in the document on principles and objectives of nuclear disarmament adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference.

27. Until recently, nuclear disarmament has been discussed in terms of weapons and their delivery vehicles. However, zero nuclear weapons might not be a stable, reassuring zero unless all fissile material, and the dedicated nuclear infrastructure, has been placed under satisfactory international control. If

this is not done, one would be left with a number of threshold States - not a reassuring proposition. An issue of the UNIDIR NewsLetter devoted to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament elaborates on the meaning of zero and the problems posed by growing stocks of excess nuclear materials.

28. The Institute's non-proliferation studies are not confined to nuclear issues. Under the project on confidence-building and arms control in the Middle East, the Institute has examined the idea of establishing a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction in that region (see sect. C below).

29. A year ago, UNIDIR produced a double issue of the NewsLetter devoted to landmines. At the diplomatic conferences at Vienna and Geneva, which produced an amended protocol on landmines to the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, the Institute was represented by Jozef Goldblat. Mr. Goldblat wrote a chapter on landmines for the SIPRI Yearbook 1995. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) is rendering services to UNIDIR in other fields, in a pragmatic, cooperative relationship between the institutes.

30. In the period under review, UNIDIR published a book entitled Evolving Trends in the Dual-Use of Satellites. The book is the spin-off of a conference on this subject, a round-table on "Tomorrow's Dual-Use of Satellites" organized by UNIDIR in connection with the International Space Congress and Exhibition at Bremen, Germany, from 23 to 25 May 1995.

C. Regional security studies

31. The Institute's main regional security project is devoted to confidence-building and arms control in the Middle East. The project began in 1994, for an initial period of two years. At its meeting in June 1995, the Board decided to continue this line of research beyond 1996.

32. The project is organized around the strategic tenets of cooperative security. The notion of cooperative security - developed in the 1990s and tailored to post-cold war realities - focuses more on the prevention of threats than on preparations to counter them, hence, the significance of confidence-building. Militarily, the basis for cooperation is mutual acceptance and support for the defence of home territory as the exclusive national military objective and the subordination of power projection to the constraints of international consensus. There is a close relationship, therefore, between cooperative security and non-offensive defence. A fully developed cooperative security framework would include provisions for collective security as a residual guarantee in the event of aggression.

33. The project started with a series of background studies to account for the special characteristics, problems and conflicts of the area that motivate the institution of confidence- and security-building measures and arms control. In the period under review, six papers on national threat perceptions were published, covering the "central" Middle East area (essentially Israel and its

neighbours). Similar papers from the Maghreb and the Gulf countries remain under preparation.

34. Another background study deals with the relationships between States, regimes and subnational actors in the Middle East. This study was commissioned to facilitate considerations of how best to anchor confidence- and security-building measures in domestic politics. The analysis of national threat perceptions clearly indicates that in some countries, the chief concern is about domestic instabilities of a socio-economic, national/ethnic or political nature.

35. The third background study is a compilation of international agreements and legal instruments pertaining to confidence- and security-building measures and arms control in the Middle East, and of current restrictions on arms transfers to the area. The catalogue includes instruments applying between States in the area; instruments applying in the area but adopted by States outside it, unilaterally or multilaterally; and international regimes applicable to the Middle East.

36. To be successful, a regional security system should be based on an agreed set of principles that will remain valid over time. In this respect, the project looked to the working group on arms control and regional security of the Madrid peace process. The working group developed a comprehensive document on principles of inter-State relations; however, consensus on it was stranded on the nuclear issue.

37. Another issue of principal importance concerns the geographical definition of the Middle East. For a long time, different definitions have been used for different purposes. In principle, the area of application for a zone free of weapons of mass destruction should be a wide one including the Islamic Republic of Iran in the east and the Maghreb countries in the west. A paper has been prepared discussing the geographical delimitation of the region and the options that might be considered for purposes of arms control. It will appear, together with other background papers, in a summary and conclusions report from the first two years of the project.

38. On 14 June 1996, UNIDIR presented its report entitled "A Zone Free of Weapons of Mass Destruction in the Middle East" at a press conference conducted jointly with the Information Service. Later that day, the Institute arranged an open meeting to discuss the main elements of the report. The report follows up on a 1990 United Nations study devoted to a nuclear weapon-free zone in the region. The authors of the UNIDIR report, Jan Prawitz (Sweden) and James Leonard (United States) - UNIDIR's main consultants on the Middle East project - also co-authored the 1990 report.

39. In Europe, neutral and non-aligned States held postures of non-offensive defence long before the concept was coined and debated in the alliance context in the 1980s. They managed well in a system featuring large asymmetries in their disfavour. In the Middle East, resource asymmetries and military inequalities will be vast and numerous for the foreseeable future. For the weaker States, there may be no better military alternative than postures of deterrence by denial, geared exclusively to the defence of home territory, raising the costs of aggression as much as possible. Also for the stronger

States, a restructuring towards less offensive defences may enhance stability and, therefore, be in the common interest. Together with the Non-Offensive Defence Network run by the Centre for Conflict and Peace Research at the University of Copenhagen, UNIDIR is undertaking an examination of the preconditions and modalities of restructuring towards non-offensive defence in the area.

40. From 14 to 16 June, UNIDIR convened a workshop at Geneva on cooperative security in the Middle East. The workshop, which focused on the "central" part of the Middle East, discussed the possibilities for defensive restructuring in the area. Given the sharp asymmetries that exist, military means of security will never suffice for the small and the poor, if at all for any of the parties: thus, the workshop also discussed possible security systems in the region by which weak actors might get political drawing rights on the system. Here, the rudimentary idea is that if a party to the arrangement is subject to an act of aggression, something else would happen to the aggressor that could change his cost-benefit analysis. What kind of security system would maximize this effect, and how could the interplay between regional and global arrangements best be organized? UNIDIR will issue a special report from the workshop.

41. A similar workshop on cooperative security in the Gulf States will be held in autumn 1996. It will consider national threat perceptions in the area and discuss policies of cooperative security.

42. In 1994, UNIDIR established an expert group for the purposes of the project. The group had about 20 members, mostly from the Middle East, and has now grown to 25. It met for the first time in Malta in April 1994; the second meeting took place at Antalya, Turkey, in November 1994; and a third meeting was held at Lund, Sweden, in June 1995. The fourth and final meeting, scheduled for Spain, has been postponed until the end of 1996.

43. Prior to the final meeting, an attempt will be made to hold an Internet conference of group members to prepare a conclusions document for endorsement by the group. The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (United States) has offered appropriate software for such a conference. UNIDIR is in no way bound to seek consensus language. However, if group members can agree on substantive observations and recommendations, this would give them greater weight. A preparatory discussion on the Internet - on the basis of a draft paper to be drawn up by UNIDIR - may make it possible to reach joint conclusions at the final meeting.

44. For some time, multilateral arms control talks at governmental level (track I) have been at a standstill, largely because of Israeli-Egyptian differences over the nuclear issue. Only non-governmental deliberations (track II) can be conducted. In the research domain, a number of institutes are pursuing track II activities. They are all, more or less, labouring under severe economic constraints. To become better funded and to coordinate their activities more effectively, an initiative has been taken to form a consortium of half a dozen institutes, UNIDIR among them.

45. In 1995, UNIDIR published the proceedings of a conference it held at Seoul on Nuclear Policies in North-East Asia. Together with the Non-offensive Defence

Network at the University of Copenhagen, UNIDIR is planning another, smaller meeting on confidence-building, arms control and normalization in North-East Asia, centred on the security problems of the Korean peninsula.

D. UNIDIR NewsLetter

46. The publication of the UNIDIR NewsLetter continued as the primary means of maintaining and developing cooperation with and among research institutes in the fields of disarmament, international security and other related fields, and as a conduit for the dissemination of UNIDIR activities.

47. Following the double issue of the NewsLetter devoted to the subject of anti-personnel landmines (No. 28/29), which was prepared for the 1995 Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, a special issue was produced on the status of the negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty. This special issue launched the new format of the NewsLetter under its new editor-in-chief, Péricles Gasparini Alves. While retaining its traditional quarterly, bilingual format, the NewsLetter contains several innovative features - both in format and in content. One feature that has received an especially warm welcome is "Open Fora", where members of the diplomatic community submit short articles regarding controversial, current and topical issues. The NewsLetter topics for 1995 included "Information Technology" and "Nuclear Disarmament: What is Next?". Forthcoming issues will be devoted to disarmament and conflict prevention, biological weapons and technology transfer. A second special issue will be produced in the autumn.

E. Computerized information and documentation database services

48. The development by UNIDIR of computerized information and documentation services proceeds at a steady pace. Four lines of action are being pursued: (a) expansion and improvement of the Institute's in-house hardware and software capabilities, particularly for publication purposes; (b) establishment of on-line database connections; (c) cooperation with other institutions worldwide; and (d) publication of a new version of the Institute's Repertory of Disarmament Research.

49. UNIDIR has purchased a number of computers and developed a local area network, which provide better working conditions for staff members and visiting fellows. This initiative also improves the Institute's technical capacity to prepare its own conference material. Furthermore, a major step has been taken to provide the international community with computerized information via electronic mail. In the course of 1996, information on the present and future activities of UNIDIR is being transferred from the Internet Gopher to the World Wide Web. The UNIDIR Research Institute Database (DATARIs) will be available on the Web for input of data by institutes that so desire from their own office terminals. Two other databases, DATAgreements on international security agreements and draft treaties and KEEPeaceDATA on issues related to peace operations, will also be available on-line in the same form. A UNIDIR Web page

has been prepared, regrouping information on UNIDIR activities, databases and related Web links. A new paper edition of Repertory of Disarmament Research will be prepared as soon as DATARIs is available on-line.

50. A new database on peacekeeping academies has been conceived and developed by UNIDIR and made available through a bulletin board system. This database will be extended to include material of relevance for the training of military and other uniformed personnel participating in peace operations. These databases are fully complementary and will be available both through the bulletin board system and the World Wide Web.

51. UNIDIR has enhanced its cooperation with various institutes and organizations worldwide, offering its expertise on information-gathering and computer services in the field of security and disarmament research. One example is the agreement that UNIDIR has signed with Switzerland concerning the follow-up to the Conference on Institutes and Security Dialogue held at Zurich in April 1994, which will be hosted by UNIDIR in September 1996. Another is the active participation of UNIDIR in the annual meetings of the European Working Group on Information and Documentation, which aims at improving the computer connectivity among Institutes and related organizations in Europe. The Sixth European Working Group Conference, which comprises over 40 institutes in Europe, the United States and Canada, will also be hosted by UNIDIR in September 1996.

52. The Institute's data system has been designed in such a way that expansion can be implemented through relatively minor changes, i.e., by addition of software modules and larger-memory computers. While the Institute's local area network suffices for the needs of UNIDIR activities in the present and near future, new components for the publication of UNIDIR books and the UNIDIR NewsLetter are necessary and shall be conceived to be added to the local-area computer architecture.

IV. EXTERNAL RELATIONS

53. UNIDIR maintains close cooperation with the Centre for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat to ensure complementarity and coordination. It continues to cooperate with other organizations and bodies in the United Nations system working in the field of disarmament and international security.

54. The quarterly NewsLetter and the Computerized Information and Documentation Database Service are the main means of communication with other research institutes as well as with users of research throughout the world. Personal relations are always important: members of the staff accepted numerous invitations to speak at universities, research institutes and other forums in many different parts of the world. Likewise, many representatives of Governments, research institutes and other organizations were welcomed at UNIDIR. Being located in the Palais des Nations, UNIDIR benefits, in particular, from close contacts with delegations to the Conference on Disarmament. UNIDIR staff members have contributed articles to journals and newspapers on security and disarmament issues, and external relations are also developed through the commissioning of research and recruitment of expert groups for the purposes of UNIDIR projects.

V. PUBLICATIONS

55. The research reports produced by UNIDIR are intended for publication and wide dissemination through free distribution to diplomatic missions, research institutes, international organizations and non-governmental organizations; and sales through the United Nations Sales Section and other outlets. In addition to research reports, UNIDIR publishes research papers written by experts within the UNIDIR programme of work. They are distributed in the same manner as the research reports. The third category in the UNIDIR publication programme is the quarterly NewsLetter.

56. Under arrangements concluded by UNIDIR, some of its reports are also published in English by commercial publishers and are available for purchase through their sales networks.

57. UNIDIR publications of the period under review are the following:

Research reports

Arms and Technology Transfers: Security and Economic Considerations Among Importing and Exporting States, Proceedings of the Geneva Conference, 14 and 15 February 1994, by Sverre Lodgaard and Robert L. Pfaltzgraff (eds.), 1995, 287 p., United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.95.0.10.

Obligations en matière de désarmement et de limitation des armements: problèmes de respect et mesures d'imposition, under the direction of Serge Sur, 1995, 430 p., United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.F.95.0.27.

Building Confidence in Outer Space Activities: CSBMs and Earth-to-Space Monitoring, by Péricles Gasparini Alves (ed.), 1995, 357 p., published for UNIDIR by Dartmouth (Aldershot).

Disarmament and Conflict Resolution Project - Managing Arms in Peace Processes: Somalia, by Clement Adibe, 1995, 242 p., United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.95.0.20.

Disarmament and Conflict Resolution Project - Managing Arms in Peace Processes: Rhodesia/Zimbabwe, by Jeremy Ginifer, 1995, 127 p., United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.95.0.28.

Disarmament and Conflict Resolution Project - Managing Arms in Peace Processes: Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, by Barbara Ekwall-Uebelhart and Andrei Raevsky, 1996, 411 p., United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.96.0.6.

Disarmament and Conflict Resolution Project - Managing Arms in Peace Processes: Cambodia, by Jianwei Wang, 1996, 243 p., United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.96.0.14.

Disarmament and Conflict Resolution Project - Small Arms Management and Peacekeeping in Southern Africa, by Christopher Smith, Peter Batchelor and

Jakkie Potgieter, 1996, 125 p., United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.96.0.16.

Disarmament and Conflict Resolution Project - Managing Arms in Peace Processes: Mozambique, by Eric Berman, 1996, 103 p., United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.96.0.18.

A Zone Free of Weapons of Mass Destruction in the Middle East, by Jan Prawitz and James F. Leonard, 1996, 134 p., United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.96.0.19.

Disarmament and Conflict Resolution Project - Managing Arms in Peace Processes: Liberia, by Clement Adibe, 1996, United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.96.0.23.

Disarmament and Conflict Resolution Project - Managing Arms in Peace Processes: The Issues, by Estanislao Angel Zawels, Stephen John Stedman, Donald C. F. Daniel, David Cox, Jane Boulden, Fred Tanner, Virginia Gamba and Jakkie Potgieter, 1996, United Nations publication (forthcoming).

Disarmament and Conflict Resolution Project - Managing Arms in Peace Processes: Haiti, by Marcos Mendiburu, 1996, United Nations publication (forthcoming).

Disarmament and Conflict Resolution Project - Managing Arms in Peace Processes: Nicaragua and El Salvador, by Paulo Wrobel, 1996, United Nations publication (forthcoming).

Disarmament and Conflict Resolution Project - Managing Arms in Peace Processes: Psychological Operations and Intelligence, by Andrei Raevsky, 1996, United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.96.0.21.

Research papers

No. 35 - The Missing Link? Nuclear Proliferation and the International Mobility of Russian Nuclear Experts, by Dorothy S. Zinberg, 1995, 45 p., United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.95.0.18.

No. 36 - Guardian Soldier: On the Future Role and Use of Armed Forces, by Gustav Däniker, 1995, 141 p., United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.95.0.19.

No. 37 - National Threat Perceptions in the Middle East, by James Leonard, Shmuel Limone, Abdel Monem Said Aly, Yezid Sayigh, the Centre for Strategic Studies (University of Jordan), Abdulhay Sayed and Saleh Al-Mani, 1995, 109 p., United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.95.0.24.

UNIDIR NewsLetter/Lettre de l'UNIDIR (quarterly/trimestrielle)

Vol. 8, No. 30/95, June-September 1995, Information Technology and International Security.

Vol. 8, No. 31/95, October-December 1995, Nuclear Disarmament: What is Next?

Special issue/Numéro spécial, CTBT Press Seminar/Conférence de presse sur le TICE.

VI. CONCLUSION

58. UNIDIR gratefully acknowledges the administrative and other support received from United Nations Headquarters and the United Nations Office at Geneva in terms of article IX of the Statute of UNIDIR.

59. UNIDIR received voluntary contributions from member States and grants from public and private foundations. These grants are usually earmarked for specific projects. The continued receipt of a subvention from the regular budget of the United Nations in accordance with article VII of the Statute of UNIDIR is therefore vital. The mixed nature of the funding of the Institute envisaged in the Statute is also a means of guaranteeing the autonomous character of UNIDIR. The impact of UNIDIR publications is predicated on the independence with which the Institute is seen to conduct its research.

60. UNIDIR benefits greatly from close contacts with the United Nations and its member Governments. These contacts are part and parcel of the rationale for the Institute, and are a significant determinant and asset for the direction and quality of UNIDIR research. The statutory formula of autonomy within the framework of the United Nations, therefore, represents an optimal combination. In this way, UNIDIR enjoys independence as well as proximity to the actors it is asked to serve. This is a unique and fruitful platform for the conduct of applied research at a time when the role of the Organization in security affairs has become significantly enlarged. The Institute endeavours to enhance its role and relevance accordingly.

Notes

a/ For the previous reports on the activities of the Institute, see A/38/475, A/39/553, A/40/725, A/41/676, A/42/607, A/43/686, A/44/421, A/45/392, A/46/334, A/47/345, A/48/270, A/49/329 and A/50/416.

ANNEX II

Report of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

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I. REVIEW OF THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INSTITUTE

1. Pursuant to the provisions of article IV, paragraph 2 (i), of the Statute of UNIDIR, the Director reported to the Board of Trustees on 3 July 1996, in Geneva, on the Institute's activities for the period July 1995-June 1996 and presented the draft work programme for 1997.

2. Members were satisfied that the work programme for 1996 had been implemented in an exemplary fashion. The Board therefore approved the Director's report on activities for submission to the General Assembly (see annex I to the present document).

3. The Board reviewed the draft work programme proposed for 1997 and approved it for submission to the General Assembly (see sect. II below). The Board noted that, in view of the forthcoming change of directorship of the Institute, the emphasis in the following report was on the near-term implementation of the programme.

4. A unanimous Board expressed its deep regret at the announcement by the Director of UNIDIR, Mr. Sverre Lodgaard, that he would be resigning as Director in the autumn of 1996 and wished him well in the assumption of his new post as Director of the Norwegian Institute for International Relations. It relayed to him its warm appreciation for the work he had accomplished since his installation as Director in 1992, and commended his work in guiding the Institute in broadening the scope of research to include disarmament's contribution to conflict resolution, management and prevention.

5. Members of the Board also expressed their appreciation to the outgoing Deputy Director of UNIDIR, Mr. Serge Sur, for his service and contribution to the work of the Institute, and welcomed the appointment of the new Deputy Director, Mr. Christophe Carle, who will assume his duties in the autumn. The Board also commended all the UNIDIR staff for their devoted efforts in implementing the Institute's programme over the last year.

6. To enhance the productivity of UNIDIR research and the capacity to sustain work carried out elsewhere, the Board believed it was necessary to expand the core staff at Geneva. While the core should remain small, the optimal size for an institute of this kind has not yet been obtained.

7. Article IV, paragraph 1, of the Statute of UNIDIR states that the Secretary-General shall appoint the Director of the Institute, after consultations with the Board. Accordingly, upon the request of the Secretary-General, the Board discussed the best procedure to take in order to make a recommendation on the appointment of a new director. It concluded that there was too little time between Mr. Lodgaard's announcement and the meeting of the Board to allow for all qualified individuals to express their interest in the position. It consequently deferred a review of candidates for a later date. Members of the Board stressed, however, that it was urgent to appoint a new director as soon as possible to allow for a smooth transition in the

implementation of ongoing projects, and to sustain confidence among funding agents in the viability and relevance of the work of the Institute.

8. The Board suggested a course of action for the selection of the new director for the consideration of the Secretary-General, and outlined guidelines that could be followed. It suggested, inter alia, that a core contact group or executive committee be established that could serve as a selection committee that could recommend a new director of UNIDIR for consideration by the Board of Trustees as a whole.

II. WORK PROGRAMME OF THE INSTITUTE FOR 1997

9. The Board decided in the interest of continuity to carry forward in 1997 the four headings of the UNIDIR research programme (see annex I, para. 9).

A. Collective security

10. Under the heading of collective security, the project on disarmament and conflict resolution is being finalized. The Board expressed particular satisfaction at the results of the project. Beyond the current publication programme of the project, the material that has been collected lends itself to two analyses of a synthesizing nature: (a) the development of an annotated repertory of demobilization/disarmament procedures and techniques; and (b) a broader analysis of the relationship between disarmament and conflict resolution.

11. The annotated repertory would specify the conditions under which different procedures and techniques have been tried and with what degrees of success. Since no two cases are alike, to try to make a general summary of lessons learnt would be a misguided ambition, but a repertory from which one could pick and choose and make hybrids, if necessary, would be useful in designing appropriate approaches for new peace operations.

12. The current research programme suggests a continuation of the disarmament and conflict resolution project along three paths: disarmament and conflict prevention; blue helmets, disarmament and humanitarian missions; and modern technologies in the service of peace. The disarmament and conflict prevention track has been developed into a concrete project for which a fair degree of funding has been obtained. It remains to realize the other two.

Disarmament and conflict prevention

13. The disarmament and conflict prevention project is an inquiry into concrete, practical ways of improving the security situation in West African countries, thereby facilitating development projects, starting with the case of Mali. It is part of a broader effort by the United Nations and by donor countries, building on the Secretary-General's missions to Mali and other countries in the region.

14. Good theory is often a precondition for good policy recommendations. Since preventive action must build on several pillars in order to have a fair chance of success - in West Africa including measures to enhance security, promote the rule of law, broaden democratic participation, promote development and repatriate refugees - a valid theoretical underpinning is particularly important for the orchestration of efforts. The project builds on a newly developed paradigm for the proliferation of small arms and on a theory of preventive action that takes the transition from traditional to modern societies as its point of departure.

15. Still, a good strategy may fail for lack of political backing. There is a need, therefore, for action programmes that are comprehensive and substantive enough to set societies on the course of peace and development, yet modest enough to stay within realistic resource frames. Obviously, preventive action costs but a fraction of peace operations launched after the outbreak of war. Still, for lack of attention, publicity and political reward, the economic constraints are usually severe. Therefore, coherent strategies and pooling of resources are all the more important. The UNIDIR project is designed to provide inputs to the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and donor countries active in West Africa, to assist them in their efforts at conflict prevention and peace-building. When deemed appropriate by the Institute's partners, activities and results may also be related directly to West African authorities and research institutes.

16. What UNIDIR can do is to address - concretely and in some detail - problems associated with the stocks and flows of small arms in the area and how human and material resources can be converted to civilian ends. The Institute may (a) help tailor demobilization and disarmament approaches and techniques to the specifics of the region, to enhance the likelihood that such efforts will function as intended and contribute effectively to development; and (b) facilitate regional cooperation on import restrictions and border controls. The first task is largely a matter of combining preliminary results from the disarmament and conflict resolution project and associated studies of small arms with regional expertise on the specifics of West African countries. The second is initially a matter of convening a regional workshop, as suggested by the Secretary-General's advisory mission to Mali, on small arms and conflict prevention in the area.

17. The workshop will bring together - for the first time - governmental representatives and non-governmental experts to examine ways and means of curbing the flow of small arms. UNIDIR will invite them to discuss such questions in the wider perspective of peace and sustainable development in the region. Without attention to the wider context, arms control may degenerate to become a technical branch out of touch with important socio-political realities, and then become a misguided endeavour. The workshop is scheduled for November 1996.

18. On the Secretary-General's initiative, national commissions on small arms have been set up in West African States. A preparatory meeting was held with representatives of these commissions at Bamako in mid-July 1996 in connection with the seminar on civil-military relations that is planned for November 1996. For the workshop proper, in addition to the commission representatives, the

Institute is planning to invite customs officials, police officers, gendarmerie, army officers, United Nations and donor country representatives and non-governmental experts. UNIDIR, being an autonomous research institute, has the freedom to include non-governmental organizations along with governmental representatives.

19. In part, the workshop will be of a deliberative nature, examining the situation in eight countries: Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal. In part, it will also be used in a search for common ground, i.e., for agreement between two or more countries on joint actions that may be taken to curb the flow of arms and enhance security in the area. Mr. Ivor Richard Fung, assigned to Bamako by the Department of Political Affairs and working together with the UNDP Resident Representative there, has been requested to assist in the organization of the workshop at the local and regional levels. As is well known from other countries, there is sometimes a "sloppiness" in the transition from conflict resolution to post-conflict reconstruction. This is a concern in Mali as well: the peace is fragile, and so the peace process should be supported without delay.

Small arms

20. A key element in the examination of the issue of small arms is the matter of coming to grips with the problems posed by small arms. While no single approach will do in relation to such complex problems, UNIDIR research will continue to focus on the recipient end, where conflicts are brewing or armed conflicts have broken out.

21. The Secretary-General's appeal for stronger efforts to control small arms - the weapons that account for most of the casualties in contemporary conflicts - is therefore one that UNIDIR has attended to for some time. Under the heading of collective security, it will continue to do so.

B. Regional security

22. The regional security studies focus on the Middle East. The UNIDIR project on confidence-building and arms control in this region is a process of applied research involving both governmental and non-governmental experts. It addresses confidence- and security-building measures and arms control in relation to conventional arms as well as weapons of mass destruction, on a subregional basis as well as region-wide. Like the project on disarmament and conflict resolution, it was originally defined as a two-year project due to finish in mid-1996. However, the political processes in the Middle East are vital, not only for regional security, but also for international security in a wider sense, and for the foreseeable future. To devote two years of research to arms control aspects is like taking a snapshot of it. Having built a certain competence on security issues in the Middle East and established cooperative networks for research on arms control there, confidence-building and arms control in the Middle East will continue for another two years.

23. The project has been organized along the lines of the concept of cooperative security. At the moment, it is unclear whether the basic tenets of

this concept will retain their relevance. The parameters on which the project is built will have to be reviewed to ensure the topicality of the research agenda.

24. Research is being done on the preconditions and modalities of restructuring towards non-offensive force postures, focusing on the "central" part of the region and the Persian Gulf area. In practice, the scope for such restructuring is not obvious: the Middle East is not as well suited for defensive defence as Central Europe, the area for which the concept was originally developed. However, this is precisely what further research intends to find out more about. It is an open question, furthermore, whether the possibilities for cooperative restructuring will now become more distant than before. One advantage of involving experts from the region in this kind of discourse is that it helps to clarify the conditions for military stability and to draft some blueprints for the longer term. If only for that reason, this exercise - currently limited to one small workshop for each of the two subregions - would seem worthwhile.

25. On French initiative, a seminar on military doctrines has been contemplated as part of the arms control and regional security process. As the process has been put on hold, doctrinal discussions may have to be organized as a track II activity, if at all. Joint discussions of military doctrines may contribute to transparency and have a variety of policy spin-offs. They open a wide window of opportunities for specific outcomes or results. Given the current political fluctuations in the region, an open-ended discussion of this kind may not be easy to arrange, but it would seem to be the right thing to attempt.

26. Given the sharp asymmetries in size and capabilities, no military defence will be adequate for the small and the weak, if at all for any of the parties. Political and institutional means of security will always be needed for peace to become a solid prospect. The peace process reached a stage where regional systems of security and cooperation were proposed and actively promoted. For instance, the Israeli-Jordanian agreement envisages a conference on security and cooperation in the Middle East. Further elaboration of institutional arrangements can provide better images of what a peaceful Middle East may bring. The destructive perspectives offered by competitive military preparations should not be left unchallenged.

27. At the regional level, the main arms control proposition is a zone free of weapons of mass destruction. UNIDIR has published a report analysing this proposal and should be ready to do follow-up studies as new factors influencing the shape and prospect for such a zone emerge. At the subregional level, more emphasis might be paid to the Persian Gulf area, where the Institute has just begun to study threat perceptions and measures to alleviate threats.

28. The arms control communities in the Middle East are small and in most cases too weak to be of real political import. The international community - the external participants to the arms control and regional security process in particular - would do well to invest more in the training of governmental experts and independent scholars. With just a few notable exceptions, virtually nothing is done in spite of the strong declaratory interest in arms control and disarmament. Of course, training can be done in a variety of ways and settings. One of them would be to start building the regional security centres - in

principle agreed by the arms control and regional security - from the relatively uncontroversial training and research end. In large measure, training can best be left to track II activities conducted by institutions and individuals with no vested interest in the politics of the region.

29. The priority that UNIDIR should attach to the continuation of these lines of research and activity depends not only on political developments in the region and associated considerations of relevance, but also on the funding that is available. For the future, more funding will be sought jointly with others, in the framework of an evolving consortium of research institutes involved in Middle East security studies. The members of the consortium will discuss a division of labour among themselves. The UNIDIR agenda will also be shaped in that context.

30. Beyond the Middle East, the project on disarmament, development and conflict prevention in West Africa constitutes, in effect, another regional security study. On a smaller scale, the Institute is planning an examination of issues pertaining to confidence-building, arms control and normalization in North-East Asia, centred on the Korean peninsula. A workshop on these issues is being planned jointly with the Non-Offensive Defence Network at the University of Copenhagen.

C. Non-proliferation studies

31. A convention prohibiting further production of fissile materials for weapons purposes is commonly assumed to be the next item for negotiation at the Conference on Disarmament. The Conference has agreed on the negotiating mandate, agreeing to disagree, until further notice, on the stockpiles issue.

32. Safe and secure disposal of excess fissile materials is an issue of increasing importance. Growing stocks of surplus fissile material from the military sector and growing amounts of plutonium in civilian fuel cycles make accountancy and control an urgent task of paramount importance. In the bilateral United States-Russian context, thorough inquiries have been made on how to cope with these proliferation risks. Globally, international management options for excess fissile material would seem increasingly important from the point of view of promoting nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, as well as avoiding nuclear theft and terrorism.

33. As is so often the case in arms control, openness is one of the first objectives to be pursued. Recently, some States have taken steps to make their fissile material stockpiles more transparent. To be effective, this presupposes accurate systems of material accountancy, including the rate and magnitude of the warhead dismantlement process. This is also the basis for international safeguards to verify the reliability of the information that Governments submit; to deter diversion; and to detect it if it nevertheless happens. The goal must be to create a safeguards regime that extends to all nuclear weapon-usable material in all countries, the nuclear-weapon States included, backed up by physical control arrangements.

34. In a nuclear disarmament process this becomes increasingly important, for at low levels of arms, big amounts of weapon-grade material on stock provide a basis for large-scale break-out. In a nuclear weapon-free world, zero nuclear weapons would not be a stable, reassuring zero unless all fissile material has been placed under satisfactory international control. If this is not done, one would be left with a number of threshold States, especially if dedicated nuclear infrastructure remains in place as well. While so far nuclear disarmament has been discussed and pursued in terms of weapons and delivery vehicles, in the future it has to be pursued more vigorously from the fissile material end as well.

35. The stockpiles issue is therefore a most pertinent one. The agenda indicated above is an agenda in its own right. It should also be seen in conjunction with a cut-off in the production of fissile materials for weapons purposes, but hardly as an integral part of that proposition; this could easily overburden the negotiation of a cut-off. The two issues might better be dealt with in parallel, in the spirit of constructive parallelism. Progress on one of them would encourage progress on the other, but the two processes should not be held hostage to one another.

36. Evidently, better systems of accountancy and control; wider coverage of international safeguards; dilution/contamination of excess fissile materials; and an international regime for storage and control of plutonium, as provided for in the Statutes of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), can constrain the potential for theft and illicit transfer of nuclear materials. These are all measures tightening controls at the source, where measures can most effectively be taken. For the international regime for the storage and control of plutonium, the question for the near future is hardly whether or not to establish a full-fledged regime, but whether to prepare a legal framework and an option for countries to deposit fissile material when they deem that desirable, hence proceeding in a gradual, pragmatic fashion.

37. For all these reasons, safer disposition of excess fissile material deserves a high priority on the Institute's non-proliferation agenda. The issue is at the heart of nuclear security concerns, be they about non-proliferation, how best to negotiate a fissile material cut-off, nuclear build-down, or nuclear theft and smuggling.

38. UNIDIR will publish an assessment of the work and outcome of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The Institute may also prepare an account and assessment of the achievements of the United Nations Special Commission on Iraq, when the time is ripe.

39. Further studies should be made of arms and defence-related technology transfers, inter alia, with an eye to a better identification of emerging technologies that may become objects of control and constraint 10 to 20 years hence. To this end, a workshop will be convened in Brazil in October 1996, including representatives of R&D establishments from international corporations as well as cross-cutting scientific experts from national academies of science. The outcome of the workshop will be published and distributed with a view to

developing broader understanding between suppliers and recipients on the rules to govern international transactions in dual-use technologies.

D. Fourth special session of the General Assembly on disarmament

40. A fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, the timing of which remains to be determined, would provide a unique opportunity to review and reconsider disarmament efforts. Today, the setting is very different from what it was in 1988, when the third special session took place, not to mention the cold war environment of 1978 when the first special session was convened.

41. Clearly, the significance and success of the session very much depend on the quality of the preparations. The Board has established a working group on the matter: if it continues its work, the Institute's contribution would naturally be coordinated with the activities of that group. One possibility would be to cast the Institute's input in the form of an annotated agenda, and to convene a workshop to assist in its elaboration. The workshop participants might meet once or several times, as would be deemed needed and useful.

42. Another possibility - of importance irrespective of the special session, but of obvious relevance for its work - would be to undertake a long-term, visionary examination of the objectives of conventional disarmament. Is general and complete disarmament feasible? Is it desirable? What does it mean? The notion seems too vague to provide any guidance in the formulation of contemporary policies.

43. The concept of cooperative security may provide a better starting point. Militarily, the main tenets of this concept are: (a) defence of the home territory as the sole legitimate national military objective; and (b) subordination of power projection capabilities to the constraints of international consensus. The first tenet is of fundamental importance for international confidence and military stability. The second refers to the constraints of regional as well as global consensus and places the conventional forces debate at the crossroads of arms control and international political order. A new feature of the United Nations in the 1990s is that big as well as small Powers have gone to the world Organization to obtain authorization and legitimation for military interventions to be undertaken elsewhere on the globe.

44. A project of this kind, devoted to macro-disarmament of general purpose forces, would have to pay much attention to regional variations and regional force determinants. The bulk of conventional forces in the world rests on regional considerations. At the same time, few regional organizations are well enough developed to conduct collective security operations: this is mostly left to the United Nations. In the concept of cooperative security, which has its main focus on conflict prevention, collective security actions are residual options that may be resorted to should primary efforts at conflict prevention fail.

45. At a Board meeting some years ago, it was observed that the UNIDIR research programme ought to have a visionary project in addition to the many studies of an applied nature related to contemporary problems. In the nuclear field, there are debates about disarmament approaches and long-term objectives. For other weapons of mass destruction, treaties aiming at complete elimination of chemical and biological weapons have been negotiated. In the conventional field, there is virtually nothing of the kind. The project suggested here links macro-disarmament of general purpose forces to considerations of security philosophies and world political order in an attempt to identify ambitious objectives that, at the same time, are concrete and powerful enough to inspire contemporary policies. To have a fair chance of yielding valuable results, such an undertaking must be given a rather wide time frame. If there is a special session in 1998 or 1999, that would be the natural occasion to aim at for an Institute working under the auspices of the United Nations.

E. Cooperation with and among research institutes

46. Four activities will be continued under this heading:

(a) The maintenance and development of the UNIDIR computerized information and documentation database on who is doing what in the field of security and disarmament research. This database, with over 1,200 references, has been placed on-line through the Internet for external users. Another database has been established containing information about peacekeeping academies as well as material of relevance for the training of United Nations and other uniformed personnel involved in peace operations;

(b) The publication of the quarterly UNIDIR NewsLetter;

(c) The convening of regional workshops, held with the dual purpose of examining region-specific issues of security, arms control and disarmament and of fostering cooperation with and among research institutes in the areas concerned;

(d) The follow up of the conference on Institutes and the Security Dialogue convened at Zurich by Swiss authorities in 1994, and co-sponsored by UNIDIR and other European research institutes. This conference considered the needs for improved communication and access to data and modern ways of meeting these needs, especially in order to link institutes in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union to data banks and evolving information networks. UNIDIR will convene the follow-up meeting at Geneva in September 1996.

F. Fellowship programme

47. UNIDIR has a fellowship programme for scholars from developing countries. The fellows stay 3-6 months and are integrated into ongoing research projects. They represent a significant strengthening of the research base in Geneva. The programme helps to ensure the participation of researchers on "an equitable political and geographical basis" (art. II, para. 3, of the UNIDIR Statute).

III. FINANCE

48. The year 1995 was one of high activity at UNIDIR, mainly because of the disarmament and conflict resolution project, and was relatively well funded. By the turn of 1995/96, the Institute faced a severe economic situation owing to the fall of the United States dollar. UNIDIR income is nearly all in dollars, which fell some 25 per cent in relation to the Swiss franc. Fortunately, a relatively large operating cash reserve of $200,000 had been built up.

49. For 1996, voluntary contributions amount to $1.02 million so far (table 1). While this exceeds the corresponding figure for 1995, the opening balance for 1996 was weaker than it was in 1995. Funds available for this year are therefore likely to be smaller than they were last year. The main contributing countries have informed us that they envisage supporting UNIDIR at the same level in 1997.

50. In this decade, the subvention from the regular budget has been $220,000 per year. The sum was never adjusted for inflation. Beginning in 1996, it was reduced to $198,000. Under the circumstances, the subvention is unlikely to be increased in the near future. This means that when applying for economic support, the Institute can not offer matching contributions at any significant level. While arms control and disarmament accounts have shrunk since the end of the cold war, UNIDIR has received more money from sources funding disarmament and development projects.

51. Tables 1 to 3 show the financial status of UNIDIR, as follows:

(a) Table 1, voluntary contributions for 1996 and total 1996 estimated trust fund income;

(b) Table 2, estimates of incomes and expenditure for 1995/96;

(c) Table 3, estimated 1996 resource requirements.

Table 1. Voluntary contributions for 1996 and total 1996 estimated trust fund income

	Amount (United States dollars)
Contributors	
A. Contributions pledged as at 17 June 1996	
Australia	7 500
Brazil	20 000
Finland	22 800
Finland	12 300
France	279 700
Germany	5 000
Netherlands	163 164
Norway	100 000
Norway	152 672
Republic of Korea	15 000
Republic of Korea	25 000
Sri Lanka	3 000
Sweden	5 000
Switzerland	59 300
Switzerland	16 900
Switzerland	50 800
Switzerland	25 900
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	7 600
Council of Europe	10 000
MacArthur Foundation	23 000
North Atlantic Treaty Organization	7 000
North Atlantic Treaty Organization	8 400
Subtotal A	1 020 036
B. Total Trust Fund income	
Total reserves and fund balances as at 31 December 1995 (final trial balance)	99 900
Estimated interest income	20 000
Estimated miscellaneous income	11 500
Subtotal B	131 400
Total 1996 estimated income	1 151 436

Table 2. Estimates of income and expenditure, 1995/96

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Items	1995 revised estimates	1996 initial estimates	1996 revised estimates	Increase/ (decrease)
A. Funds available at the beginning of the year	584.1	246.6	99.9	(146.7)
B. Estimated income:				
Voluntary contributions	886.5	671.5	1 020.0	348.5
Estimated interest income	25.0	25.0	20.0	(5.0)
Estimated miscellaneous income	15.0	15.0	11.5	(3.5)
Subvention from the United Nations regular budget	220.0	220.0	198.0	(22.0)
Total income	1 146.5	931.5	1 249.5	318.0
C. Total estimated funds available (A + B)	1 730.6	1 178.1	1 349.4	171.3
D. Estimated expenditure	1 484.0	1 049.7	1 174.8	125.1
E. Fund balance at the end of the year (C - D)	246.6	128.4	174.6	46.2

Table 3. Estimated 1996 resource requirements

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Resource requirements	1996 initial estimates	1996 revised estimates	Increase/ (decrease)
A. Direct programme and administrative costs			
Temporary assistance for meetings	-	2.0	2.0
Consultants' fees and travel	-	173.8	173.8
Ad hoc expert groups	-	69.0	69.0
Salaries and related staff costs	753.3	464.9	(288.4)
Personal service contracts	131.9	351.7	219.8
Fellowship programme (stipend)	84.8	10.6	(74.2)
Official travel of staff	16.6	24.0	7.4
Travel of fellows	10.4	2.0	(8.4)
External printing and binding	-	4.4	4.4
Rental of conference room	-	5.5	5.5
Rental of furniture, equipment	-	4.5	4.5
Hospitality	3.2	3.2	-
Maintenance of office automation equipment	6.0	7.0	1.0
Subscriptions and standing orders	2.0	1.2	0.8
Supplies and materials	2.0	4.5	2.5
Acquisition of office equipment	-	-	-
Total	1 010.2	1 128.3	118.1
B. Programme support costs			
(5 per cent of total A, less United Nations subvention)	39.5	46.5	7.0
Total estimated expenditure (A + B)	1 049.7	1 174.8	125.1
C. Operating cash reserve			
(15 per cent of total A + B less United Nations subvention)	124.5	146.5	22.0
Grand total A + B + C	1 174.2	1 321.3	147.1

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Fifty-first session
Item 148 of the provisional agenda*

REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION ON THE WORK OF ITS FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/51/150.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 11 December 1995, the General Assembly adopted resolution 50/45, entitled "Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its forty-seventh session". In paragraph 10 of that resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to invite Governments to comment on the present state of the codification process within the United Nations system and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session.

2. By a note dated 21 December 1995, the Secretary-General invited Governments to submit their comments pursuant to paragraph 10 of resolution 50/45.

3. As at 12 September 1996, a reply had been received from Japan; it is reproduced in section II below. Additional replies will be reproduced as addenda to the present report.

II. COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

JAPAN

[Original: English]

[29 August 1996]

1. Certain members of the Sixth Committee may feel that the unsatisfactory progress the codification process has made recently may be attributable to the fact that, with the completion of work on many of the major topics traditionally identified as ripe for codification, further such work is unnecessary. The Government of Japan does not share this view. International law remains indefinite and underdeveloped in various areas, and even in those areas in which codification has taken place and legislative treaties have been adopted, practice is constantly changing and difficulties arise which make it necessary to address matters afresh. Accordingly, there continues to be a need for an orderly process of "codification and progressive development". The recent failure in the field of codification, if it is indeed a failure, is jointly attributable to the Sixth Committee and to the International Law Commission. The Government of Japan fully agrees as to the need referred to in the seventh preambular paragraph of General Assembly resolution 50/45 "to enhance further the interaction between the Sixth Committee as a body of government representatives and the International Law Commission as a body of independent legal experts, with a view to improving the dialogue between the two organs". The process must be one in which the two organs together select topics in response to real and current needs of the international community, continually exchange views as the work of codification proceeds and see to it that the results of that work are implemented expeditiously as legal instruments.

2. However, it would be more constructive to deal with specific problems than to offer general observations. The International Law Commission completed its work on "the Convention on Jurisdictional Immunities of States and their Property" in 1991. After intensive consultation for three years in the Sixth

Committee, the convention was shelved until 1997. It is regrettable that a final decision on this instrument has been delayed when every country has had ample opportunity to contribute to its elaboration, and it is to be hoped that the matter can indeed be resolved next year. In another instance, draft articles on the law of the non-navigational uses of international watercourses were completed by the Commission in 1994. As Governments have already had more than enough time to review them, it is earnestly to be hoped that the Sixth Committee will finalize its work at its 1996 session in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolution of 1994.

3. It is further to be noted that, in addition to its traditional assignment of codification and progressive development through the formulation of draft articles, the International Law Commission might be asked to undertake two studies that would contribute to the refinement of international law. One would be a review of State practice in connection with previously codified conventions, e.g., the law of treaties, diplomatic and consular relations. The other would be an effort to identify those areas such as the environment in which laws are being developed sector by sector or regionally and bilaterally, involving a risk of fragmentation and inconsistency.